

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed May 24, 2004 (Paper No. 16). Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-4 and 6-33 will be pending in the application, with Claims 1, 19, and 27 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 7, 8, and 18 have been amended herein, and Claim 5 has been canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,175,315 (Millard et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed, at least in light of the foregoing amendments.

The Office action, in addition to rejecting Claims 1-4, and 6, indicated that Claims 5 and 7-18 were directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the features recited in Claim 5, thereby rendering the above-noted rejection moot.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully solicit reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1, 19, and 27 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Moreover, entry and consideration of this Amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The Amendment overcomes all of the rejections and objections set forth in the above-noted Office Action. The Amendment places the application in

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better form for appeal, which Applicants fully intend to pursue if necessary. The present Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further search or consideration. Therefore, entry and consideration of the present Amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and are hereby requested.

Hence, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

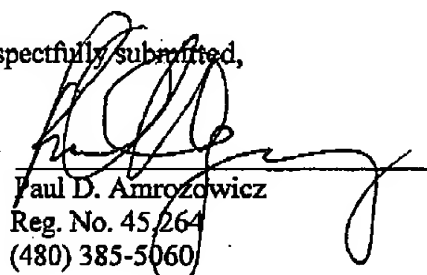
If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 22, 2004

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